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BOOK REVIEWS.

OUTLINE STUDY OF LAW.—By Isaac Franklin Russell, D. C. L., LL.D., Professor of Law in New York University. Third Edition. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Co. Pp. xix, 344.

The principal fault to be found with Professor Russell's little book is that it masquerades under a false title and in a deceptive garb. It should be bound in the green cloth of the essayist instead of law buckram, and should have been entitled, "Rambling Reflections of a Jurist," or "Scintillations from a Legal Luminary," instead of "Outline Study of Law." For it is neither a "study" nor an "outline" of law, nor can it possibly serve the purpose announced in the preface, "a first book in law and a general introduction to the whole body of American jurisprudence." Title, form and announced purpose apart, the little volume answers its real purpose well enough. No sage and serious-minded person looks for discipline in law or for exposition of legal doctrine to a course of lenten lectures delivered by a brilliant lawyer and wit to a women's law class, and in this compendium and syllabus of such a course nothing so serious and out of place as legal instruction is to be found. Instead, we have the easy discourse of a cultivated man, equally interested in books and in affairs, upon a great number of topics, some of them having to do with the law and more of them with the conduct of life; a philosophy not too profound, a learning not too high for human nature's daily food. And what a range! From strenuous living, as exemplified in the prize-ring and the football field, to the Austinian theory of sovereignty, from codification to contingent remainders, from the Pentateuchal jurisprudence to the Hague Conference of 1899. The lectures, as a whole, are decidedly clever, are smartly written, and, though superficial, are by no means flippant or trifling. If accuracy, instead of picturesqueness and raciness, had been a desideratum, the reference to the doubtful *jus primæ noctis* (page 260) might well have been omitted, and the good taste of certain passages on pages 305 and 330 is more than doubtful. There are minor inaccuracies enough, especially where accuracy is of the essence of the matter, as in the treatment of the feudal system; but the book is, in general, sound and reliable. There are many who like this sort of thing and many more who would be benefited and stimulated by it; and while it will drive no one to the serious study of law, it may well turn the general reader from his newspaper and magazine to the more inviting aspects of sociology, politics and jurisprudence. This, whether intended or not, is a real service and goes far to redeem the book from the reproach which its too pretentious title and aim must visit upon it.

HAND-BOOK OF THE LAW OF BILLS AND NOTES.—By Charles P. Norton, Lecturer on Bills and Notes in the Buffalo Law School.